

MER

MEASURE. *adj.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] Relating to measure.

TO MEASURE. *v. a.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] To measure; to take the dimension of any thing.

MENSURATION. *n. f.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] The act or practice of measuring; result of measuring.

After giving the *mensuration* and argumentation of Dr. Cumberland, it would not have been fair to have suppressed those of another prelate.

MENTAL. *adj.* [mentale, French; mentis, Lat.] Intellectual; existing in the mind.

What a mental power

This eye shoots forth? How big imagination

Moves in this lip? To the dumbness of the gesture

One might interpret. *Shakep. Timon of Athens.*

So deep the power of these ingredients pierc'd,

Ev'n to the inmost seat of mental light,

That Adam now enforc'd to close his eyes,

Sunk down, and all his spirits became entranc'd. *Millon.*

The metaphor of taste would not have been so general, had there not been a very great conformity between the mental taste and that sensitive taste that affects the palate.

Addison's Spect. No. 409.

If the ideas be not innate, there was a time when the mind was without those principles; for where the ideas are not, there can be no knowledge, no assent, no mental or verbal propositions about them. *Locke.*

She kindly talk'd, at least three hours,

Of plack'd forms, and mental powers. *Prior.*

Those inward representations of spirit, thought, love, and hatred, are pure and mental ideas, belonging especially to the mind, and carry nothing of shape or sense in them. *Watts's Logic.*

MENTALLY. *adv.* [from *mental*.] Intellectually; in the mind; not practically, but in thought or meditation.

If we consider the heart the first principle of life, and mentally divide it into its constituent parts, we find nothing but what is in any muscle of the body. *Bentley.*

MENTION. *n. f.* [mention, Fr. *mention*, Latin.] Oral or written expression, or recital of any thing.

Think on me when it shall be well with thee; and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. *Gen. xl. 14.*

The Almighty introduces the proposal of his laws rather with the mention of some particular acts of kindness, than by reminding mankind of his severity. *Rogers's Sermons.*

TO MENTION. *v. a.* [mentioner, Fr. from the noun.] To write or express in words or writing.

I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord. *Isa. lxiii. 7.*

These mentioned by their names were princes in their families. *Chron. iv. 38.*

The rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat are written in the book of Jehu, who is mentioned in the book of Kings. *2 Chron. xvi.*

All his transgressions shall not be mentioned. *Ezek. xviii.*

MEPHITICAL. *adj.* [mephitis, Lat.] Ill favoured; stinking.

Mephitical exhalations are poisonous or noxious steams issuing out of the earth, from what cause soever. *Quincy.*

MERACIOUS. *adj.* [meracius, Latin.] Strong; racy.

MERACABLE. *adj.* [mercor, Lat.] To be sold or bought. *DiC.*

MERCANTANT. *n. f.* [mercantante, Ital.] This word in *Shakespeare* seems to signify a foreigner, or foreign trader.

What is he?

— A mercantant, or else a pedant.

I know not what but formal in apparel. *Shakespeare.*

MERCANTILE. *adj.* Trading; commercial.

The expedition of the Argonauts was partly mercantile, partly military. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

Let him travel and fulfil the duties of the military or mercantile life; let prosperous or adverse fortune call him to the most distant parts of the globe, still let him carry on his knowledge, and the improvement of his soul. *Watts.*

MERCAT. *n. f.* [mercatus, Latin.] Market; trade.

With irresistible majesty and authority our Saviour removed the exchange, and drove the mercat out of the temple. *Sprat.*

MERCATURE. *n. f.* [mercatura, Latin.] The practice of buying and selling.

MERCENARINESS. *n. f.* [from *mercenary*.] Venality; respect to hire or reward.

To forego the pleasures of sense, and undergo the hardships that attend a holy life, is such a kind of mercenariness, as none but a resigned, believing soul is likely to be guilty of; if fear itself, and even the fear of hell, may be one justifiable motive of mens actions. *Boyle.*

MERCENARY. *adj.* [mercenarius, Fr. *mercenarius*, Lat.] Venal; hired; sold for money; acting only for hire.

Many of our princes, woe the while!

Lie drown'd, and faked in mercenary blood. *Shakespeare.*

Divers Almain, who served in the garisons, being merely mercenary, did easily incline to the strongest. *Haywood.*

The appellation of servant imports a mercenary temper, and

denotes such an one as makes his reward both the sole motive and measure of his obedience. *South's Sermons.*

I was not for nothing I the crown resign'd;

I still must own a mercenary mind. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

MERCENARY. *n. f.* [mercenarius, Fr.] A hireling; one retained or serving for pay.

He a poor mercenary serves for bread;

For all his travel, only cloth'd and fed. *Sandys's Paraph.*

MERCER. *n. f.* [mercier, French.] One who sells silks.

The draper and mercer may measure religion as they please, and the weaver may cast her upon what loom he pleases. *Howell's England's Tears.*

MERCERY. *n. f.* [mercerie, Fr. from *mercier*.] Trade of mercers; dealing in silks.

The mercery is gone from out of Lombard-street and Cheapside into Paternoster-row and Fleet-street. *Graunt.*

TO MERCHANT. *v. n.* [marchander, French.] To transact by traffick.

Ferdinando merchant with France for the restoring Rouffignion and Perpignan, oppignorated to them. *Bacon.*

MERCHANTISE. *n. f.* [marchandise, French.] Trade of mercers; commerce; trade.

If a son, that is sent by his father about merchandise, fall into some leud action, his wickedness, by your rule, should be imputed upon his father. *Shakep. Henry V.*

If he pay thee to the utmost farthing, thou shalt forgive nothing: it is merchandise, and not forgiveness, to restore him that does as much as you can require. *Taylor.*

2. Wares; any thing to be bought or sold.

Fair when her breast, like a rich laden bark

With precious merchandise, she forth doth lay. *Spenser.*

Thou shalt not tell her at all for money; thou shalt not make merchandise of her. *Dante, xxi. 14.*

As for any merchandise you have brought, ye shall have your return in merchandise or in gold. *Bacon.*

So active a people will always have money, whilst they can find what merchandise they please to Mexico. *Addison.*

TO MERCHANTISE. *v. n.* To trade; to traffick; to exercise commerce.

The Phenicians, of whose exceeding merchandising we read so much in ancient histories, were Canaanites, whose very name signifies merchants. *Brewster on Languages.*

MERCHANT. *n. f.* [marchand, French.] One who trafficks to remote countries.

France hath slaw'd the league, and hath attach'd

Our merchants goods at Bourdeaux. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

The Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city to destroy the strong holds thereof. *Isa. xxiii. 11.*

The most celebrated merchants in the world were situated in the island of Tyre. *Addison's Freeholder, No. 42.*

MERCHANTLY. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

MERCHANTLIKE. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

MERCHANT-MAN. *n. f.* [merchant and man.] A ship of trade.

Pirates have fair winds and a calm sea, when the just and peaceful merchant-man hath them. *Taylor.*

In the time of Augustus and Tiberius, the southern coasts of Spain sent great fleets of merchant-men to Italy. *Arbutnot.*

MERCHANTABLE. *adj.* [mercabilis, Lat. from *merchant*.] Fit to be bought or sold.

Why they placed this invention in the heaven, beside the medical and merchantable commodity of castor, or parts conceived to be bitten away, might be the sagacity of that animal. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

MERCIABLE. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] This word in *Spenser* signifies merciful.

Nought but well mought him betight:

He is so meek, wife, merciable,

And with his word his work is convenable. *Spenser's Poet.*

MERCIFUL. *adj.* [mercy and full.] Compassionate; tender; kind; unwilling to punish; willing to pity and spare.

Be merciful, O Lord, unto thy people thou hast redeemed. *Dante, xxi. 8.*

MERCIFULLY. *adv.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderly; mildly; with pity; with compassion.

Make the true use of those afflictions which his hand, mercifully severe, hath been pleased to lay upon thee. *Arbutnot.*

MERCIFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderness; willingness to spare.

The band that ought to knit all these excellencies together is a kind of mercifulness to such a one, as is in his soul devoted to such perfections. *Sidney.*

Use the means ordinary and lawful, among which mercifulness and liberality is one, to which the promise of secular wealth is most frequently made. *Hammond.*

MERCILESS. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] Void of mercy; pitiless; hard hearted; cruel; severe.

His mother merciless,

Most merciless of women Wyden hight,

Her other son fast sleeping did oppress,

And with most cruel hand him murdered pitiless. *Po. 29.*

The foe is merciless, and will not pity. *Shakespeare.*

Thinks

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Think not their rage to desperate t' essay

An element more merciless than they. *Denham.*

What God so mean,

So merciless a tyrant to obey! *Dryden's Juvenal.*

Whatever ravages a merciless distemper may commit, she

shall have one man as much her admirer as ever. *Pope.*

The torrent merciless imbibes

Commissions, perquisites, and bribes. *Swift.*

MERCILESSLY. *adv.* [from *merciless*.] In a manner void of pity.

MERCILESSNESS. *n. f.* [from *merciless*.] Want of pity.

MERCURIAL. *adj.* [mercurialis, Lat.]

1. Formed under the influence of mercury; active; sprightly.

I know the shape of 's leg: This is his hand,

His foot mercurial, his martial thigh,

The brawns of Hercules. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*

This youth was such a mercurial, as could make his own

part, if at any time he chanced to be out. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*

Tully considered the dispositions of a sincere, more ignorant, and less mercurial nation, by dwelling on the pathetic part.

2. Consisting of quicksilver. *Swift's Miscel.*

MERCURIFICATION. *adj.* [from *mercury*.] The act of mixing any thing with quicksilver.

I add the ways of mercurification. *Boyle.*

MERCURY. *n. f.* [mercurius, Latin.]

1. The chemist's name for quicksilver is mercury. *Hill.*

The gall of animals and mercury kill worms; and the

water in which mercury is boiled has this effect. *Arbutnot.*

2. Sprightly qualities.

Thus the mercury of man is fix'd,

Strong grows the virtue with his nature mix'd;

The drops cements what else were too refin'd,

And in one inextinguishable body acts with mind. *Pope.*

3. A news-paper. *Ans.*

4. It is now applied, in cant phrase, to the carriers of news and pamphlets.

MERCURY. *n. f.* [mercurialis, Latin.] A plant.

The leaves of the mercury are crenated, and grow by pairs opposite: the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, which expands and is cut into three segments; these are male and female in different places: the flowers of the male grow in long spikes, and consist of many stamina and apices, which are loaded with farina; the ovary of the female plant becomes a testiculated fruit, having a single round seed in each cell. *Miller.*

Herb mercury is of an emollient nature, and is eaten in the manner of spinach, which, when cultivated in a garden, it greatly excels. *Hill's Mat. Med.*

MERCY. *n. f.* [merci, French, contracted from *misericordia*, Latin.]

1. Tenderness; goodness; pity; willingness to save; clemency; mildness; unwillingness to punish.

Oh heav'n have mercy on me!

— I say, amen. *Shakespeare.*

And have you mercy too?

Mercy is not strain'd;

It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heav'n,

Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest'd;

It blesteth him that gives and him that takes. *Shakep.*

Arise, and have mercy upon Zion. *Psal. cii. 13.*

Thou, O God, art gracious, long-suffering, and in mercy ordering all. *Wisd. xv. 1.*

Examples of justice must be made for terror to some; examples of mercy for comfort to others: the one procures fear, and the other love. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

Good heav'n, whose darling attribute we find

Is boundless grace, and mercy to mankind,

Abhors the cruel. *Dryden.*

We adore his undeserved mercy towards us, that he made us the chief of the visible creation. *Bentley's Sermons.*

2. Pardon.

As offer'd mercy is.

— I were a paper lost,

That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*

I cry thee mercy with all my heart, for suspecting a friar

of the least good-nature. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*

3. Discretion; power of acting at pleasure.

Condition!

What good condition can a treaty find

I th' part that is at mercy? *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

The most authentic record of so ancient a family should

lie at the mercy of every infant who flings a stone. *Pope.*

A lover is ever complaining of cruelty while any thing is

denied him; and when the lady ceases to be cruel, the

from the next moment, at his mercy. *Swift.*

MERCY-SEAT. *n. f.* [mercy and seat.]

The mercy-seat was the covering of the ark of the covenant, in which the tables of the law were deposited: it was of gold, and at its two ends were fixed the two cherubims, of the same metal, which with their wings extended for-

wards, seemed to form a throne for the majesty of God, who in scripture is represented as sitting between the cherubims, and the ark was his footstool: it was from hence that God gave his oracles to Moses, or to the high-priest that consulted him. *Calm.*

Make a mercy-seat of pure gold. *Exod. xxv. 17.*

MERE. *adj.* [merus, Latin.] That or this only; such and no

thing else; this only.

This avarice

Strikes deeper, grows with more pernicious root

Than Summer-teeming lust; and it hath been

The sword of our slain kings: yet do not fear,

Scotland hath foilons to fill up your will

Of your mere own. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

I have engag'd myself to a dear friend,

Engag'd my friend to his mere enemy,

To feed my means. *Shakep. Merchant of Venice.*

The mere Irish were not admitted to the benefit of the laws of England, until they had purchased charters of denization. *Davies on Ireland.*

From mere success nothing can be concluded in favour of any nation upon whom it is bestowed. *Atterbury.*

What if the head, the eye, or ear repin'd,

To serve mere engines to the ruling mind. *Pope.*

Let Eastern tyrants from the light of heav'n

Seclude their bosom slaves, meanly possess'd

Of a mere, lifeless, violated form. *Thompson's Spring.*

MERE or mere, whether in the beginning, middle, or end, always signify the same with the Saxon mere, a pool or lake. *Gilpin's Camden.*

MERE. *n. f.* [mepe, Saxon.]

1. A pool; commonly a large pool or lake: as, *Winander mere.*

I may say nothing of meres stored both with fish and fowl. *Camden's Remains.*

2. A boundary.

The millayer of a mere-stone is to blame: but it is the unjust judge that is the capital remover of land-marks, who defineth amiss of lands. *Bacon.*

MERELY. *adv.* [from *mere*.] Simply; only; thus and no other way; for this and for no other end or purpose.

Which thing we ourselves would grant, if the use thereof had been merely and only mystical. *Floeker, l. v.*

These external manners of laments

Are merely shadows to the unseen grief,

That swells with silence in the tortur'd soul. *Shakep.*

It is below reasonable creatures to be conversant in such diversions as are merely innocent, and have nothing else to recommend them. *Addison's Spect.* No. 93.

Above a thousand bought his almanack merely to find what he said against me. *Swift.*

Prize not your life for other ends

Than merely to oblige your friends. *Swift.*

MERETRICIOUS. *adj.* [meretricius, meretrix, Latin.] Whorish; such as is practised by prostitutes; alluring by false show.

Our degenerate understandings having suffered a sad divorce from their dearest object, defile themselves with every meretricious semblance, that the variety of opinion pretends them with. *Glanville's Scep.*

Not by affected, meretricious arts,